Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the Government have contributed anything to the Nemmara Town Council during the course of 1116?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Government have generously contributed. The figures are given in answer to another question.

NEMMARA TOWN COUNCIL—HOUSE-TAX ASSESSMENT OF

30. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) who fixed the house-tax (to be levied by the Town Council) in the case of buildings belonging to the President of the Nemmara Town Council;

(*b*) what is the house-tax fixed ;

(*c*) what is the house-tax in respect of the buildings of Mr. K. V. Ananthakrishna Ayyar, a member of the Nemmara Town Council ;

(*d*) who assessed the tax in respect of the case referred to in (*c*)?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) The Diwan Peishkar.

(*b*) & (*c*) A statement giving the information is placed on the Council Table.

(*d*) The President assisted by the Special Assessor.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether a complaint was received from the gentleman referred to in (*c*) that the house tax fixed for the tenaments of his has been in excess of what he is exactly bound to pay?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* From the statement placed on the Council Table I find that the President there is in possession of more houses than the gentleman referred to in (*c*) and that the assessment of his houses is lower. How can that be accounted for?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I said, with regard to the President's houses the assessment was made by the Diwan Peishkar and not by him. Therefore there is nothing to question that assessment. The only question that remains is whether the other assessment is higher. Town Council is a self-governing and absolutely independent body. Government have very limited powers to interfere with its working. And generally it would be a

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bad policy to interfere in all such matters. Therefore the petition that was received was referred to the Council for necessary action. The aggrieved party can appeal to the Council. He can also appeal to the Government against the decision of the Council. That is the procedure to be adopted.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the Government cannot revise the orders?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That means executive interference. Unless it comes through the proper channel, does the House want me to interfere in such matters? The appeal is to the Council and then there is provision for further appeal to the Government, in this case, the Minister.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Does the Government act upon such complaints in the case of Municipalities?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I do not think so. Because it will become limitless if we are to do so.

31. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government have received any representation from the rate-payers within the limits of the Nemmara Town Council complaining that the house-tax levied by the Council authorities is excessive and inequitable;

(*b*) who made such representation;

(*c*) what action have Government taken on such representation?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The house owners of Ward VI, Nemmara Town.

(*c*) The petition was rejected.

R. V. C. A. HOSPITAL—STORES—INSPECTION OF

32. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development had deputed anyone who is not in Government service to inspect the stores of the Ayurvedic Hospital, Trichur, in Kumbham 1116;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, who was the person so deputed?

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